

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Richard C. Wilmoth	§	
	§	Group Art Unit:
	§	Examiner:
Serial No.:	§	
Filed: January 5, 2004	§	
For: <b><i>Orientation Independent Compartment</i></b>	§	
<b><i>Pressure Relief Valve</i></b>	§	

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandra, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This information disclosure statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)).

Listed on the accompanying form PTO/SB/08A are a number of documents which may be considered material to the examination of this application. A copy of each of these documents is provided.

The filing of this information disclosure statement should not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in this statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). Moreover, Applicant(s) reserves the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the listed documents should they be applied as references, or to prove that some of these documents may not be enabling for the teachings they purport to offer.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that there does not exist information more material to the examination of the present application. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the materials submitted herewith.

Instead the Examiner is requested to conduct an independent and thorough review of the documents, and to form independent opinions as to their significance.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of enclosed PTO/SB/08A and to similarly indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

Respectfully submitted,

George P. Kobler  
Registration No. 46,837  
January 5, 2004

LANIER FORD SHAVER & PAYNE P.C.  
Customer No. 021491  
200 West Side Square, Suite 5000  
P.O. Box 2087  
Huntsville, AL 35804  
(256) 535-1100

***Practitioner's Docket Number: 03-0898.01***

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	
				Filing Date	January 5, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Richard C. WILMOTH
				Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name					
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	03-0898.01

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number – Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	1	US- 3,896,847	07/29/75	Bauer et al.	
	2	US- 4,972,765	11/27/90	Dixon	
	3	US- 5,105,731	04/21/92	Kraus	
	4	US- 5,105,849	04/21/92	Clough	
	5	US- 5,194,038	03/16/93	Klomhaus et al.	
	6	US- 5,419,739	05/30/95	Lewis	
	7	US- 5,492,505	02/20/96	Bell et al.	
	8	US- 5,727,999	03/17/98	Lewis	
	9	US- 5,759,097	06/02/98	Bernoville et al.	
	10	US- 5,904,618	05/18/99	Lewis	
	11	US- 6,026,852	02/22/00	Barton et al.	
	12	US- 6,210,266	04/03/01	Barton	
	13	US- 6,357,473	03/19/02	Porter et al.	
	14	US- 2002/0111131	08/15/02	Demerath	
	15	US- 6,458,027	10/01/02	Stiehl	
	16	US- 2002/0148507	10/17/02	Porter et al.	
	17	US- 2002/0164943	11/07/02	Misner	
	18	US- 2003/0017799	01/23/03	Hayashi et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		County Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)					

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's Unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of U.S. Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.4.

<sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 2213-1450.